



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



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## The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 265, March 14, 2025

**Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor**

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

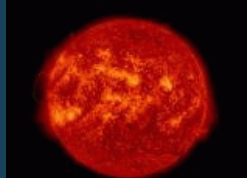
Dr. Tony Phillips' [SpaceWeather.com](http://SpaceWeather.com), used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



### Solar-Terrestrial Data

15 Mar 2025 1706 GMT  
 SFI:180 SN: 185  
 A-Index: 24  
 K-Index: 3  
 X-Ray: C1.6  
 304A: 158.7 @ SEM  
 Ptn Flx: NoRpt  
 Ele Flx: NoRpt  
 Aurora: 2/n=1.99  
 Mag (Bz): 3.5  
 Solar Wind: 497.9  
 Geomag Field UNSETTLD  
 Sig Noise Lvl S2-S3  
 Current Solar Image



<http://www.nonbh.com>  
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## DX News

**3D2, FIJI.** Heath, VK3TWO will be QRV as **3D2TWO** from **March 16th to 27th**. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters, running 10 watts with SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 11 March 13, 2025] (0314-0328)

**5H, TANZANIA.** Maurizio, IK2GZU, operates as **5H3MB** from **March 18th to April 8th**. QSL via [IK2GZU](#), LoTW, eQSL.

-[DXNL # 2449 March 12, 2025] (0314-0411)

**6W, SENEGAL.** Willy, ON4AVT, signs **6W7/ON4AVT** from **February 2nd to April 10th** from the town Warang. QRV on 80-10m (CW, SSB, FT8) and via QO-100. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW, eQSL.

-[DXNL # 2443 January 29, 2025] (0131-0411)

**6Y, JAMAICA.** Members of the EIDXG (EI DX Group) will be active as **6Y7EI** from Jamaica (NA-097) on **March 13th-24th**. They will operate all modes on 160-6 meters. QSL via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).  
-[425DXN # 1766 March 8, 2025] (0307-0328)

**6Y, JAMAICA.** Iain, G4SGX will be active as **G4SGX/6Y** from Jamaica (NA-097) on **March 1st-21st**. He will operate CW only on 80-10 meters (hopefully also "some top band action") and will take part in the RSGB Commonwealth (BERU) Contest (8-9 March). QSL via LoTW, or via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).  
-[425DXN # 1764 February 22, 2025] (0228-0321)

**8P, BARBADOS.** Chris, WA7RAR will be active as **8P9CB** from Barbados (NA-021) on **March 5th-16th**. He will operate SSB and CW on 20-10 meters, often from POTA sites. QSL via LoTW, QRZ Logbook, or direct to [WA7RAR](#).  
-[425DXN # 1765 March 1, 2025] (0228-0321)

**8R, GUYANA.** Aldir, PY1SAD will be active again as **8R1TM** from Georgetown, Guyana from **March 11th to April 26th**. He will operate CW, SSB and digital modes on the HF bands and via satellite. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, QRZ Logbook, or direct to [PY1SAD](#).  
-[425DXN # 1765 March 1, 2025] (0307-0425)

**C6, BAHAMAS.** Chad, WE9V will be active as **C6ACK** while visiting "various islands" in the Bahamas from **February to May**. He will be QRV on 40-6m. He says he will eventually set up ClubLog. QSL via LoTW (preferred), or direct to [WD9DZV](#).  
-[425DXN # 1764 February 22, 2025] (0221-0502)

**C6, BAHAMAS.** Steve, KJ4LJB is active holiday style as **C6AJB** from Eleuthera (NA-001), Bahamas **until March 20th**. He operates FT8 and SSB ("I may try RTTY, and possibly other digital modes") on 80-10 meters. He reports that "the logs for March 8 were lost! If you worked me on that day and need C6A, please try again". QSL cards will not be issued; FT8 QSOs will be logged and uploaded to LoTW; he says, "otherwise a log will not be kept".  
-[425DXN # 1767 March 15, 2025] (0314-0321)

**CT, PORTUGAL.** Celebrating the 200th anniversary since German physicist Georg Simon Ohm began his research in the nature of electrical resistance, members of the Associacao de Radioamadores da Regiao de Lisboa (CS5LX) will be active as **CS2ØØOHM** on **March 16th** (Ohm's birth date). QSL via operator's instructions.  
-[425DXN # 1767 March 15, 2025] (0314-0321)

**D4, CAPE VERDE.** Special event call sign **D45ØICV** is active until the end of the year to mark Cape Verde's Independence Day. QSL via [IK2NCJ](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 11 March 13, 2025] (0314-0404)

**D6, COMOROS.** Elvira, IV3FSG will be QRV as **D68Z** from Moroni from **March 3rd to 18th**. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8, and FT4. QSL via [IK2DUW](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025] (0228-0321)

**DL, GERMANY.** Celebrating World Amateur Radio Day, DARC special event callsign **DA25WARD** will be active from **March 8th until April 27th**. All QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau; direct QSL via [DL2VFR](#).  
-[425DXN # 1766 March 8, 2025] (0307-0425)

**DL, GERMANY.** Special callsign **DL2Ø25C** celebrates Chemnitz as one of the European Capitals of Culture 2025 from **January 18th until March 31st**. In addition, **DL2Ø25B**, **DL2Ø25E**, **DL2Ø25W**, and **DL2Ø25S** will also be active, marking previous German cities similarly honored (Berlin, Essen, Weimar) and the DARC district Saxony, where Chemnitz is located. An award program is also available; see <https://www.2025c.de>. QSL only in various digital forms.  
-[DXNL # 2441 January 15, 2025] (0117-0328)

**DXCC TOP TWENTY.** Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of March 14, 2025:

- |         |                    |         |                                |
|---------|--------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| 1. P5   | DPRK (North Korea) | 11. ZS8 | Prince Edward & Marion Islands |
| 2. BS7H | Scarborough Reef   | 12. KH4 | Midway Island                  |

3. CEØX	San Felix Islands	13. VKØM	Macquarie Island
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. KP5	Desecheo Island
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
8. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	18. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands
9. YVØ	Aves Island	19. VKØH	Heard Island
10. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island	20. FT/T	Tromelin Island

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF March 14, 2025 (0314-0404)

**E5, SOUTH COOK IS.** Frank, DJ5NQ is QRV as **E51ANQ** from Rarotonga during the month of March. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL direct to [DJ5NQ](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 11 March 13, 2025] (0314-0404)

**EA, SPAIN.** Look for **EG6ØGURU/p** to be QRV from various SOTA locations in Spain during March. This activity is a tribute to Jose-Antonio Gurutzarri "Guru" Jauregi (EA2IF), an outstanding personality of the Summits On The Air program, who passed away in 2022. See <https://sites.google.com/view/ea2if-memorial> for more information; QSL cards will not be provided, but QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1767 March 15, 2025] (0314-0328)

**EA8, CANARY IS.** Jan, DL4XT will be QRV as **EA8/DL4XT** from Fuerteventura from March 15th to 22nd. Activity will be on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using primarily CW and SSB. QSL to [DL4XT](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 11 March 13, 2025] (0314-0321)

**EP, IRAN.** Hamid, **EP4HR** has been active on 17 meters using FT8 around 1700z. QSL via [I2RZQ](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025] (0228-0321)

**FO/M, MARQUESAS IS.** Fred, F4LYI will be active holiday style as **FO/F4LYI** from March 19th to 25th. Announced plans are to be QRV from Nuku Hiva, Marquesas Islands (OC-027) on March 19th-21st; from Us Huka, Marquesas Islands (OC-027) on March 21st-25th. See <https://www.grz.com/db/FO/F4LYI> for updates. He will operate SSB on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. QSL direct to [F4LYI](#).

-[425DXN # 1767 March 15, 2025] (0314-0328)

**FJ, SAINT BARTHELEMY.** Janusz, SP9FIH will be active as **TO1P** from St. Barthelemy (NA-146) from March 24th to April 4th. He will operate SSB, FT8 and RTTY on 40, 17 and 10 meters. See <http://fj.dxpedititions.org> for updates. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1765 March 1, 2025] (0228-0404)

**FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA.** Olafur, TF1OL is QRV as **FO/TF1OL** from Tahiti. Activity is on the HF bands. He has been active on 17 meters using FT8 around 0830Z. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to [TF1OL](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 10 March 6, 2025] (0307-0328)

**FY, FRENCH GUIANA.** Renato, PY8WW is active as **FY/PY8WW** from French Guiana until March 18th. "This will become a recurring, but not continuous, operation", he says. QSL exclusively via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1767 March 15, 2025] (0314-0321)

**H4, SOLOMON IS.** Bernhard, DL2GAC will be active again as **H44MS** from the Solomon Islands from February 9th to May 7th. He is usually QRV daily, with activity on 80-6 meters SSB and FT8. QSL via [DL2GAC](#).

-[425DXN # 1761 February 1, 2025] (0207-0509)

**HKØ, SAN ANDRES & PROVIDENCIA.** Adrian, HJ4ADR will be QRV as **HJ4ADR/Ø** from Providencia Island (NA-049) from March 20th to 26th. Activity will be holiday style on 40 and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 11 March 13, 2025] (0314-0328)

**HKØ, SAN ANDRES & PROVIDENCIA.** Ray, K3ARC will be QRV as **HKØA** from San Andres Island (NA-033) from **March 9th to 19th**. Activity will be on 20 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL direct to [K3ARC](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 10 March 6, 2025] (0307-0321)

**HL, SOUTH KOREA.** Special event station **HL1ØØIARU** will be active from **March to April** to mark the 100th anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union. QSL via [HL1IWD](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025] (0228-0328)

**I, ITALY.** The following special event call signs celebrate Marconi's patent applications made between 1897 and 1926: **II4SHLD** (March), **II4GHPR** (April), **II4JGGR** (May), **II4RXOS** (June), **II4COHR** (July), **II4LDMA** (August), **II4RADS** (September), **II4WLTX** (October), **II4EACC** (November), **II4TJTB** (December). QSL via [IQ4FE](#), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2449 March 12, 2025] (0314-0404)

**J3, GRENADA.** Mike, VE2XB will be QRV as **J38XB** from **March 17th to 31st**. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using some CW and SSB. QSL to [VE2XB](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 11 March 13, 2025] (0314-0404)

**J6, ST. LUCIA.** Mike, MØMDS will be QRV as **J6/MØMDS** from Anse Chastanet from **March 15th to 24th**. Activity will be holiday style on 160 to 10 meters using QRS CW, as well as SSB and FT8. QSL to [MØMDS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 11 March 13, 2025] (0314-0328)

**JA, JAPAN.** Junichi, JH1RNI will be active holiday style as **JH1RNI/6** from Ishigaki Island (AS-024) on **March 15th-21st**. He will operate CW, FT8 and SSB "if possible" on 40-6 meters.

-[425DXN # 1767 March 15, 2025] (0314-0321)

**KH9, WAKE I.** Allen, **KH7AL/KH9** (<https://kh7al.site/kh9-blog/>) is "on the home stretch", and "as I see my travel date quickly approaching for my break from Wake Island, I feel the urge to log as many contacts as I can. Therefore, I have planned a multi-day radio activities to dish out some QSOs before I am wheels up and heading home for some fun time with my family". His next scheduled activities are:

**March 15th** 0700-0900 UTC 15m CW

**March 16th** 0700-0900 UTC 12m SSB

**March 16th** 1930-2359 UTC 15m SSB

**March 17th** 0700-0900 UTC 12m CW

He also reports that Richard, a colleague at work, just passed his Technician exam and got a new callsign. He is eager to upgrade to General, and Allen "would like to get him on 10m to say hello very soon".

He regularly announces and updates his operating schedule on <https://kh7al.site/kh9-upcoming-activity/>. QSL via [KH7AL](#) (direct with SASE), Bureau or LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1767 March 15, 2025] (0314-0321)

**LZ, BULGARIA.** Radio club Blagovestnik honors the memory of Orthodox saints with the following call signs during 2025: **LZ372SG** (March-April), **LZ286MDK** (May-June), **LZ591MK** (July-August), **LZ117ME** (September-October), **LZ3Ø6WW** (November-December). The club also celebrates the 75th anniversary of the International Police Association with the callsign **LZ75IPA**. QSL via bureau.

-[DXNL # 2449 March 12, 2025] (0314-0404)

**OH, FINLAND.** Radio club OH2AP celebrates its 60th anniversary with the callsign **ØF6ØAP** during **2025**. An award is available for contacts with **ØF6ØAP**, **ØH2AP**, **ØH2NP**, **ØH2OV**. For more information see [ØF6ØAP](#) on qrz.com.

-[DXNL # 2449 March 12, 2025] (0314-0404)

**ON, BELGIUM.** Celebrating the centenary of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), the local divisions of the Belgian IARU society (UBA) will activate 28 special event stations from **March 15th until May 15th**: **ØN1ØØI**, **ØN1ØØA**, **ØN1ØØR**, **ØN1ØØU**, **ØØ1ØØI**, **ØØ1ØØA**, **ØØ1ØØR**, **ØØ1ØØU**, **ØP1ØØI**, **ØP1ØØA**, **ØP1ØØR**, **ØP1ØØU**, **ØQ1ØØI**, **ØQ1ØØA**, **ØQ1ØØR**, **ØQ1ØØU**, **ØR1ØØI**, **ØR1ØØA**, **ØR1ØØR**, **ØR1ØØU**, **ØS1ØØI**, **ØS1ØØA**, **ØS1ØØR**, **ØS1ØØU**, **ØT1ØØI**, **ØT1ØØA**, **ØT1ØØR**, and **ØT1ØØU**. In addition, members of the UBA Board and HF Committee will be active as



**OQØIARU** and **ORØIARU**. A series of certificates will be available, see <https://www.uba.be/en/news/uba-iaru-100-event> for the details and the OQRS for bureau cards (TBA soon).

-[425DXN # 1764 February 22, 2025] (0314-0516)

**PA, NETHERLANDS**. Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Dutch Marine Radio Amateur Club (<https://www.marac-radio.nl>), special callsign **PA4ØMARAC** will be active from **March 1st until December 31st**. A QSO with this station earns 10 points for the MARAC awards (see [P14MRC](https://www.p14mrc.com) on qrz.com). QSL via [PA3CNI](https://www.pa3cni.nl).

-[425DXN # 1765 March 1, 2025] (0228-0321)

**PJ2, CURACAO**. Thaire, W2APF will be active as **PJ2/W2APF** from **January 12th to April 8th**. He will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 80-10 meters. QSL via LoTW or [W2APF](https://www.w2apf.com).

-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0110-0404)

**PJ7, SINT MAARTEN**. Tom, AA9A will be QRV as **PJ7AA** from **March 9th to April 5th**. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using CW, FT8, and FT4. QSL direct to [AA9A](https://www.aa9a.com) or [ClubLog's OQRS](https://www.clublog.com).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 10 March 6, 2025] (0307-0404)

**TR, GABON**. Roland, F8EN is back to Gabon and active as **TR8CR** until at least April, maybe longer. He operates CW only. Log search on <http://LesNouvellesDX.fr/voirlogs.php>. QSL via [F6AJA](https://www.f6aja.com).

-[425DXN # 1763 February 15, 2025] (0214-0328)

**TY, BENIN**. Gerard, F5NVF is QRV as **TY5C** from Godomey until April 2nd. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL direct to [F5RAV](https://www.f5rav.com), or via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 2 January 9, 2025] (0110-0404)

**V3, BELIZE**. Kinion, KB5UOD is QRV as **V32KW** until March 20th. Activity is on the HF bands. He plans to activate various POTA and SOTA sites. QSL to [KB5UOD](https://www.kb5uod.com).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 11 March 13, 2025] (0314-0321)

**V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS**. Fred, G4XWM will be QRV as **V4/G4XWM** from St. Kitts (NA-104) from **March 8th to 29th**. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](https://www.clublog.com), LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 10 March 6, 2025] (0307-0328)

**V6, MICRONESIA**. Richard, WE9G will be QRV as **V6WG** from Kosrae Island (OC-059) from **March 18th until April 1st**. QSL to [WE9G](https://www.we9g.com).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 11 March 13, 2025] (0314-0404)

**V7, MARSHALL IS**. Tim, KZ4V, will be busy on research missions to different Marshall Islands atolls during March and April, among them Enewetak (OC-087), Bikini (OC-028), Rongelap (OC-028), Wotje (OC-029), and Majuro (OC-029). Mostly, he will operate from aboard a vessel (**KZ4V/mm**) but sometimes also from dry land as **V73MT**, including a 5-day stay on Enewetak; date is not known so far. (**Editor's note:** shipboard operations do NOT count for DXCC.) QSL via ClubLog, LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2449 March 12, 2025] (0314-0404)

**VE, CANADA**. Pierre, VK3KTB will be active again as **VYØERC** from the Eureka Amateur Radio Club station on Ellesmere Island (NA-008) from **March 7th to April 2nd**. He operates SSB, CW and FT8 on various bands when time permits. QSL via [MØOXO's OQRS](https://www.m0oxo.com) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1766 March 8, 2025] (0307-0404)

**VK9C, COCOS (KEELING) IS**. A group of operators will be QRV as **VK9CU** from **March 4th to 11th**. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 (F/H or Super Fox) with three stations active around the clock. QSL via [DL2AWG](https://www.dl2awg.com).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 27, 2025]

**VP5, TURKS & CAICOS IS**. Les, KI5GTR, signs **VP5/KI5GTR** from **March 14th to 24th** on CW, SSB, and FT8; he hopes to also activate some POTA references. QSL via [KI5GTR](https://www.ki5gtr.com).

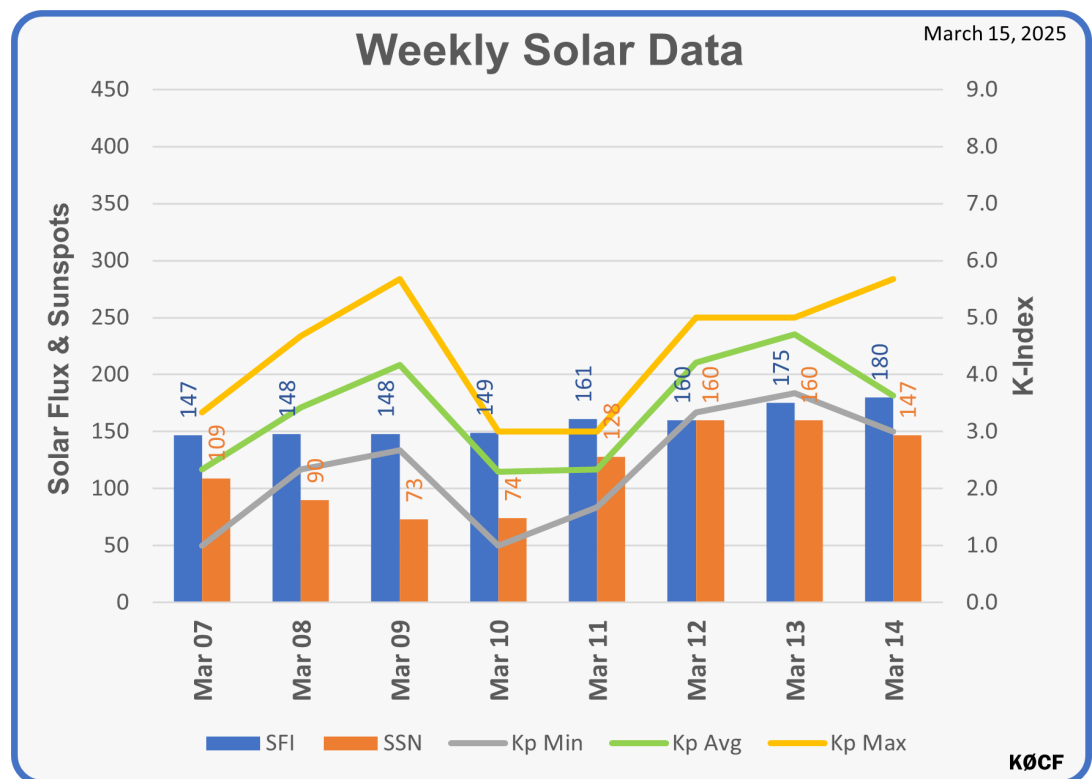
-[DXNL # 2449 March 12, 2025] (0314-0328)

**VU4, ANDAMAN & NICOBAR IS.** A large group of operators will be QRV as **VU4AX** from South Andaman Island (AS-001) from **March 10th to 25th**. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters, including 60 meters, using CW, SSB, and various digital modes with six stations active. QSL via [MØURX's OQRS](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 10 March 6, 2025] (0307-0328)

**XU, CAMBODIA.** Members of the club station **XU7AMO** at the National Polytechnic Institute of Cambodia are QRV on Satellite QO-100 **until March 16th**. For a detailed schedule see: <https://camrg.com>. QSL via [NØMMA](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 11 March 13, 2025] (0314-0321)

**YU, SERBIA.** The Serbian radio club Novi Sad celebrates its centenary **in 2025** with the callsign **YU1ØØBPQ**. QSL via [YU7BPQ](#).  
-[DXNL # 2449 March 12, 2025] (0314-0404)

## Propagation (Updated daily)



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

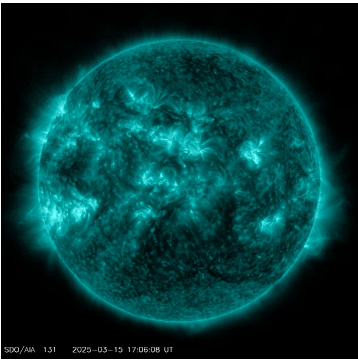
The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

*Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.*

NASA's current view of

the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



**Propagation Summary**

For the 8 day period from Friday, March 7th through yesterday, March 14th.

The average solar flux was 160, up 6 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 180 on Friday, March 14th, following a low of 147 on March 7th.

The average sunspot count was 119, down by 6 from last week, peaking at 160 on Thursday, March 13th after a weekly low of 73 on March 9th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 4.4 with a maximum of 5.7 on Friday, March 14th, indicating a minor geomagnetic storm.

Solar flare activity since March 8th has been quiet with only 1 major flare, which was an M 1.1 event on Tuesday, March 11th.

**Propagation Data**

Major solar flares, Saturday, March 8th through 1419 UTC, March 15th.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Mar 11	1304	M 1.1

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Mar 15	45%	10%	180
Mar 16	45%	10%	180
Mar 17	45%	10%	180

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on March 10, 2025).

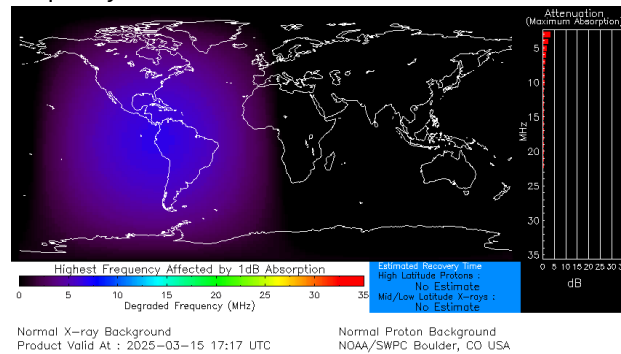
Date	Flux	Kp
Mar 15	170	3
Mar 16	175	3
Mar 17	180	4
Mar 18	180	5

Date	Flux	Kp
Mar 19	185	3
Mar 20	190	2
Mar 21	195	2
Mar 22	190	2

Date	Flux	Kp
Mar 23	190	2
Mar 24	180	2
Mar 25	170	4
Mar 26	170	5

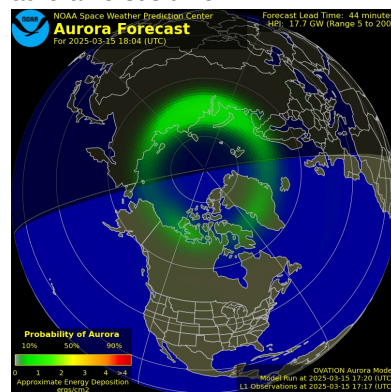
## Global D Region Absorption

Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:



## The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by "back-scatter" and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



## Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.

Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

## The Sun's Northern Hemisphere is Waking Up

For much of the past year, solar activity has been dominated by southern sunspots. Now, the sun's northern hemisphere is waking up. Two-thirds of today's sunspot groups are north of the sun's equator, and the sunspot number is climbing again. Could this herald [a second peak](#) for Solar Max? Stay tuned. (Copyright © [SpaceWeather.com](#) March 15, 2025. Republished by permission.)

## Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.com/>

<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

## A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the



higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

## Contest Calendar

### Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC	End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z 0100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z 1400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Monday	1900Z 2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z 0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z 1400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Wednesday	1900Z 2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z 0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z 0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z 0215Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z 0300Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

### Full Calendar

Contest	Start	End	Web Site
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	Mar 15 0200Z	Mar 17 0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Russian DX Contest	Mar 15 1200Z	Mar 16 1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Virginia QSO Party	Mar 15 1400Z	Mar 16 2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

North American SSB Sprint Contest	Mar 23	0000Z	Mar 23	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB</b>	Mar 29	0000Z	Mar 30	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Louisiana QSO Party	Apr 5	1400Z	Apr 6	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
SP DX Contest	Apr 5	1500Z	Apr 6	1500Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
JIDX CW Contest	Apr 12	0700Z	Apr 13	1300Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
New Mexico QSO Party	Apr 12	1400Z	Apr 13	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Georgia QSO Party	Apr 12	1800Z	Apr 13	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB</b>	Apr 13	1800Z	Apr 13	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Holyland DX Contest	Apr 18	2100Z	Apr 19	2100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
YU DX Contest	Apr 19	0700Z	Apr 20	0659Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Michigan QSO Party	Apr 19	1600Z	Apr 20	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Ontario QSO Party	Apr 19	1800Z	Apr 20	1800Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Quebec QSO Party	Apr 20	1200Z	Apr 20	2200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Florida QSO Party	Apr 26	1600Z	Apr 27	2159Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
7th Call Area QSO Party	May 3	1300Z	May 4	0700Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Indiana QSO Party	May 3	1600Z	May 4	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Delaware QSO Party	May 3	1700Z	May 4	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
New England QSO Party	May 3	2000Z	May 4	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	May 17	1200Z	May 18	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Arkansas QSO Party	May 17	1400Z	May 18	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>CQ WW WPX Contest, CW</b>	May 24	0000Z	May 25	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Kentucky QSO Party	Jun 7	1300Z	Jun 8	0100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>ARRL Inter. Digital Contest</b>	Jun 7	1800Z	Jun 8	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
ARRL June VHF Contest	Jun 14	1800Z	Jun 16	0300Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) ]